

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03409 180828Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /093 W  
-----181207Z 057701 /44

R 170930Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6782  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
COMSIXTHFLT  
EUCOM  
SECDEF WASHDC  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES ITALY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3409

CINCUSNAVEUR, COMSIXTHFLT, EUCOM, USDOCOSOUTH ALSO PASS POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: POLS, PFOR, ENRG, TS, LY, IT  
SUBJ: GOT SUGGESTS SCARABEO IV'S WITHDRAWAL MAY BE CONCIL-  
IATORY GESTURE FROM LIBYA: CHATTY AND ACHOUR DEPART  
FOR TRIPOLI

REF: TUNIS 3336

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) ALL TUNIS PAPERS OF MAY 14 FRONTPAGED  
STORIES CONFIRMING THAT DEFENSE MINISOER ABDALLAH FARHAT HAD  
ANNOUNCED AT A PSD PARTY MEETING ON ENFIDA ON MAY 12 THAT  
SCARABEO IV HAD WITHDRAWN FROM DISPUTED AREA, AND THAT HE EX-  
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PRESSED HOPE THAT "THIS POSITIVE ACTION OPENS THE WAY FOR A  
DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TOTHE CONTINENTAL SHELF PROBLEM" BETWEEN  
TUNISIA AND LIBYA. ON SAME DAY, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY,  
"LA PRESSE", ALSO ATTRIBUTED ALMOST IDENTICAL REMARK TO NATION-  
AL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SADOK MOKADDEN, AND IN LEAD EDITORIAL  
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SCARABEO IV WITHDRAWAL MAY BE FIRST GES-  
TURE LEADING TO DIALOGUE AND RETURN TO HISTORICALLY GOOD RELA-

TIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. PAPERS OF MAY 15 REPORTED SIMILAR STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF CULTURE CHIDLI KLIBI, IN WHICH HE REFERRED TO "ENCOURAGING SIGNS" FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SPIRIT OF FRATERNITY AND WISDOM WILL PREVAIL.

2. TUNISIAN MEDIA ALSO ANNOUNCED ON MAY 15 THAT HABIB ACHOUR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF GENERAL UNION OF TUNISIAN WORKERS (UGTT) LEFT TUNIS FOR LIBYA ON SATURDAY, MAY 14, IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION FROM GENERAL UNION OF LIBYAN WORKERS UNIONS. IN HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN TRIPOLI, ACHOUR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE STRESSED "STRONG RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN TWO LABOR ORGANIZATIONS SINCE THEIR CREATION." SAME ARTICLES CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY WAS TO DEPART SHORTLY TO ATTEND ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI ON MAY 16. HIS DEPARTURE ON MAY 16 WAS LATER CONFIRMED IN GOT ANNOUNCEMENT. (END UNCLASSIFIED).

3. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL). COMMENT: WHILE WE CANNOT BE SURE OF TRUE REASONS FOR GOT'S APPARENT EFFORT TO PICTURE SCARABEO IV WITHDRAWAL AS CONCILIATORY GESTURE FROM TRIPOLI, WE SUSPECT IT WISHED TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF IMPROVED CLIMATE BEFORE ANNOUNCING ACHOUR AND CHATTY TRIPS. NEITHER HAS BEEN BILLED AS FORMAL GOT NEGOTIATING MISSION, ALTHOUGH IMPLICATION IS CLEAR THAT CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE MAY BE DISCUSSED. GOT HAD EARLIER DECLARED THAT TALKS WITH LIBYA WERE "DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF," AND GOT MAY HAVE DECIDED TO CAPITALIZE ON SCARABEO IV'S DEPARTURE IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF BEING OVER-SOLICITOUS TO STILL INTRANSIGENT LIBYA. SHOULD THIS LATEST GOT  
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INITIATIVE BE AS UNPRODUCTIVE AS PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO REACH ACCORD WITH LIBYA, TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT CAN AT LEAST SAY THAT IT WAS TRYING TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PERCEIVED CONCILIATORY ACT ON PART OF TRIPOLI. TO DATE, THERE STILL HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC REFERENCE HERE TO PROSPECT OF READING AND BATES PLATFORM REPLACING SCARABEO IV. (END CONFIDENTIAL).

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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DEPART FOR TRIPOLI  
**TAGS:** PLOS, PFOR, ENRG, TS, LY, IT  
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